



The Golden Cod

Official Newsletter of the Gilbert Bay MPA



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The Golden Cod is dedicated to informing the public about the Gilbert Bay Marine Protected Area. The Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust publishes the newsletter on behalf of the Gilbert Bay Steering Committee (GBSC).

Don't forget to visit our website at: www.gilbertbay.com

Foreword

Gilbert Bay was officially designated a Marine Protected Area (MPA) on October 11, 2005 (refer to Figure 1, below, to view the Gilbert Bay MPA regulatory zones).

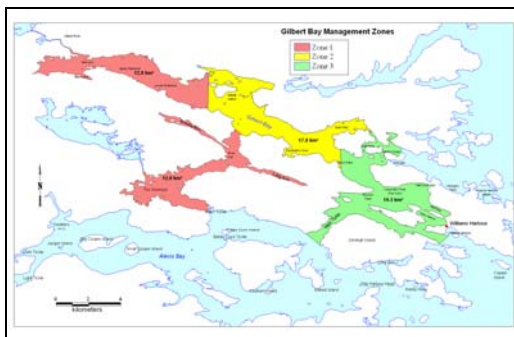


Figure 1. The Gilbert Bay MPA regulatory zones.

The purpose of establishing a MPA in Gilbert Bay is to protect its genetically and geographically distinct population of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), and the ecosystem that supports them.

The regulations governing the use of the Gilbert Bay MPA can be found online at: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2005/20051019/html/sor295-e.html> or you can contact the MPA Community Coordinator for a copy.

Please note: violations of MPA regulations can result in fines ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

Research in Gilbert Bay

As in past years, this upcoming summer the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) will be continuing to conduct research in Gilbert Bay.

Dr. John Green and Corey Morris (DFO) will be continuing with the external tagging and monitoring program that has been conducted on the cod in Gilbert Bay since 1998. In addition to this, they will also

continue with their plankton, cod egg, and larval cod monitoring. Dr. Green and Mr. Morris will also be checking on the movements of ten Gilbert Bay cod that were tracked over this past winter using recordings taken by an array of receivers (see Figure 2, below) positioned in Gilbert Bay last fall. This tracking was accomplished by implanting ten Gilbert Bay cod with coded sonic tags that periodically send out sonic pulses which can be recognized by the receivers. Upon retrieving the receivers that are already in Gilbert Bay and downloading their readings, an additional five receivers will be deployed and an additional seven Gilbert Bay cod will be implanted with coded sonic tags.



Figure 2. Autonomous receiver used for recording the movements of Gilbert Bay cod.

Dr. Joe Wroblewski of MUN will also be conducting research in Gilbert Bay again this summer and will be hiring a local scallop dragging vessel to assist him with his research. This research will use underwater cameras and grab-samples taken from the bottom in Gilbert Bay, to ground-truth the multi-beam survey that was conducted in Gilbert Bay in 2002.

DFO will also be conducting monitoring around William's Harbour's sewage outfall again this summer; in order to assure that the outfall is not having any negative affects on the Gilbert Bay MPA or on any of the marine life there.



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Pictures from Gilbert Bay:



An Alligator fish, captured in Gilbert Bay by a local scallop fisherman. (Photo credit: Wayne Russell)



William's Harbour's "Golden Cod Festival" logo. This festival takes place every August. (Photo credit: DFO)



The Community Coordinator for the Gilbert Bay MPA at a poster presentation held at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, NS, on February 7-9, 2006. (Photo credit: Wayne Russell)

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Notice to Recreational Fishers

The tagging and recapture program being conducted by Dr. John Green and Corey Morris (DFO) is very important in estimating the biomass and health of the Gilbert Bay cod population. As such, it is very important that you return any tags found in fish captured accidentally during the recreational trout and salmon fisheries this summer, to DFO at the address printed on the tag. These tags are located just below the dorsal fin (*see Figure 3, below*) of the fish and there is a \$10 reward for their return. Please include your name, location where the fish was captured, and the length of the fish with your return.

The GBSC would also like to request that fishers make every attempt to release accidentally captured Gilbert Bay cod, alive.

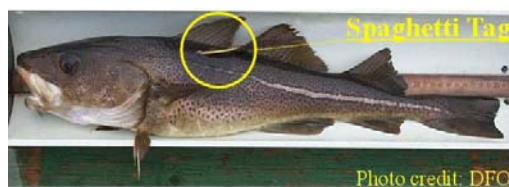


Figure 3. Illustration showing the positioning of Spaghetti tag in Gilbert Bay cod.

Scallop Logbooks

Last summer marked the first time scallop fishing enterprises were asked to complete a log of their scallop fishing activities in Gilbert Bay.

The voluntary logbook that fishermen were asked to keep was put in place to gather much needed data on the scallop fishery being conducted in Gilbert Bay. The hope is to get local fishermen involved in a scallop conservation project for Gilbert Bay.

Dr. Joe Wroblewski of MUN is heading up the initiative and hopes to get a project on the go this coming fall.

Presently the GBSC is in the process of

simplifying the logbook so that it is less cumbersome for fisherpersons to use.

A Note from the Coordinator

As most of you already know by now, my name is Wayne Russell and I am the Community Coordinator for the Gilbert Bay MPA. This is the second issue of our newsletter, and I hope that it has been useful in keeping you up-to-date on the activities and research being conducted in the Gilbert Bay MPA.

If you have any questions or concerns that are not dealt with in this publication, or if you do not receive our newsletter and would like a copy, feel free to contact me at the address below:

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